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ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Cumulative

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1958.

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To the
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958. I wish to thank the Public Health Inspector for his assistance in the preparation of my report.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN R.HASSAN.

Medical Officer of Health.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR 1958.

S E C T I O N A

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VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	36,971 Acres.
Population	1958
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year	2,260
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book.	
Alston Ward	517
Nenthead Ward	222
Garrigill Ward	139
	Total 878
Rateable Value	£18,021.
Penny Rate Product	£64.

COMMENT.

Each year the birth rate and death rate are looked at and conclusions arrived at if there is any great deviation from what is regarded as the normal trend. It should be noted that for the first time in ten years or so the Registrar General's population figure admits of an increase. It is a small increase but most welcome. The birth rate is the highest it has been for many years and the death rate is rather what we have come to expect for this area. When the number of births and deaths in a small community such as ours are converted into a rate per 1,000 of population, somewhat exceptional figures are arrived at compared with other areas and with the country at large. Therefore it is better to look at the actual figures rather than the rate per 1,000.

I would now like to deal with the subject of immunisation. Protection against Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Smallpox is offered in the first 18 months of life. In an enlightened community it is expected that the number protected bears a close relationship to the number of births. It is gratifying to see that this is so as regards Whooping Cough and Diphtheria but not so in the case of Smallpox. The acceptance rate for vaccination is much too low. This is to be deplored and it is to be hoped that a more satisfactory figure will be reported in future years. It is proposed to

vaccinate children against Smallpox hereafter not until they have attained their first birthday. The acceptance rate for protection against Poliomyelitis is good and while exact figures of this rate are difficult to assess it is felt that it compares favourably with other areas.

Housing development, both private and local authority, was at a standstill during the year. The number of houses unfit for habitation added to the waiting list shows clearly that there is much to do. There are a number still of real hardship cases who are applicants; there is also a large number who because of financial stringency and the prevailing high rents are not applicants. Houses will, in the end, have to be provided and as there seems no possibility of building costs coming down, it is unwise to delay, and it is strongly urged that the demolition of old properties should be got under way. Excellent and convenient sites would thus be provided and the temporary raggedness would be a small price to pay.

Applications for improvement grants were smaller in number but all were approved by the Council. It is a worthwhile scheme and one that could be made more widespread.

The number of people who avail themselves of the services of the Mass Radiography Unit is most commendable. The reluctance to be X-rayed is gradually decreasing and will decrease still more when it is generally realised that chests can be more thoroughly examined by X-ray than by the ordinary examination performed by a doctor in his surgery.

Science and the ingenuity of man have still failed to produce a substitute for the good red blood which flows in our veins. This material can only be obtained from man and is quickly returned to our ailing fellows. Alston Moor has been generous in the giving of blood hitherto but it is regretted that the number of volunteers is falling. Let us correct this trend at the next visit of the Blood Transfusion Service. In sickness we receive much these days, let us while in health give something on account, in return.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Health Committee members for their continuing interest and help during the year.

LIVE BIRTHS.

1958

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Legitimate	23	25
Illegitimate	1	2
	<hr/> 51 <hr/>	

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-
	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	1	-
" " " 1 year of age	1	-
	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	

ANNUAL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated population.

For this area	22.60
For Cumberland	17.61
For Rural District of Cumberland	17.35
For England and Wales	16.40

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>M</u> 19	<u>F</u> 17
	<hr/> 36 <hr/>	

ANNUAL DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated population.

For this area	15.90
For Cumberland	12.40
For Rural District of Cumberland	11.82
For England and Wales	11.70

Deaths from Puerpal Causes	Nil	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4	2
	<hr/>	
	6	

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

S E C T I O N B

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(i) PUBLIC OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time)

John R.Hassan, Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.,
Cottage Hospital,
ALSTON.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

R.W.Thomas, M.A.P.H.I.,
Town Hall,
ALSTON.

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The Pathological Laboratory of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle supplies a complete range of service under this heading.

(b) Ambulance and Sitting Car Service.

There has been no alteration in the service as it is administered locally; nor has there been any change in the vehicles used.

(c) Home Nursing.

This service continues to run efficiently and some figures are given to show the extent of the work.

Number of Home Helps on books.	14
Number of Householders helped.	24

Nursing Service.

Number of cases nursed.	134
Number of Nursing Visits.	3289

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Consultant Services are available at Carlisle and Newcastle. Physiotherapy is available on two mornings each week at the Cottage Hospital. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly at the Cottage Hospital provided of course by the Cumberland County Council. The School Dental Clinic is held one day a fortnight at the Cottage Hospital.

The Dental Service (N.H.S.) is provided one day each week by a Private Practitioner.

The East Cumberland Hospital Management Committee provide a Consultant Radiology Service one afternoon each fortnight.

S E C T I O N C

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WATER.

Garrigill again caused the greatest concern in connection with water supplies in the district during 1958, but early in 1959, the Fewsteads augmentation scheme was completed and now the water supply conditions in the main centres of population can be regarded as very satisfactory.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

A certain amount of work will have to be carried out to the Alston works in the near future. Allowance has been made in the estimates of 1959-60 to cover this.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Alston is now well catered for, and now that it has been agreed to engage a lady cleaner for the Ladies Conveniences, there should be no complaints.

The Men's Convenience at Alston is in need of redecoration and repairs to the W.C. door, and the Nenthead Conveniences also need redecorating. An effort will be made to treat the walls with a substance that will give an uneven surface thus discouraging the wall 'artists and poets'.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This service can be regarded as highly satisfactory in this area, at least 80% of the district being covered. Some trouble has been occasioned at Clarghyll Refuse Tip due to fires, and it would minimise risk of fire if householders burnt as much waste paper as possible.

Sanitary Position of the Area.

Number of Inspections	723
Nuisances Report	7
Nuisances abated by Informal Notices	7
Informal Notices	7
Statutory Notices	Nil
Number of houses inspected	296
Number of houses disinfected	-
New houses erected (Local Authority)	-
New houses erected (Privately)	1
Plans submitted	24
Plans approved	24
Number of Sewer connections	Nil
Number of Water connections	1
Houses Demolished	2

FACTORIES.

(i) Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

<u>Premises.</u>	No.on Register.	No.of Inspections.	No.of Written Not.	No.of Occ.Pros.
(i) Factories in which Sec.1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	17	36	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises).	-	-	-	-
	21	37	-	-
(ii) Cases in which defects were found	Nil			

S E C T I O N D

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POST WAR HOUSING.

Council Houses completed at the end of 1957	127
Privately owned Houses "	1
Estimated number of houses unfit for habitation which cannot be made fit at reasonable cost	131
Number of houses overcrowded	26
Total number of applicants for Council Houses	27

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Number of privately owned houses for which Improvement Grants were sought	5
Number of applications for Grants approved	5
Number of improvements completed	9
Improvement Grant total	£1,382

SECTION E

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MEATS.Shops.

Both Butcher's Shops can now be regarded as satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses.

One privately owned slaughterhouse was operated satisfactorily during the year.

The quality of beasts etc. has been very high, and the only meat found to be unfit were a small percentage of offal - livers affected by fluke worm and one unborn calf (45 lbs.)

There was no evidence of Cisticercus Bovis.

The throughput for the slaughterhouse for the year was:-

Cattle 117 Sheep 572 Pigs Nil.

MILK.

Number of Retailers 8

Again attention is drawn to the condition of milk bottles. The public are largely to blame as often there are long delays before the empty bottles are returned to the dairyman. As soon as emptied, the householder should rinse the bottles, thus facilitating proper cleansing by the dairyman. Also care on all sides should be taken to prevent the chipping of the necks of bottles and chipped bottles should NOT be used,

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Again the various catering establishments have been satisfactory. They are as follows:-

	<u>Licences Hotels.</u>	<u>Temperance Hotels.</u>	<u>Snack Bars.</u>	<u>Fish & Chip Shops.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Alston.	3	3	2	1	9
Nenthead.	1	-	-	1	2
Garrigill.	1	-	-	-	1

The total number of licenced premises are as under:-

Alston	7
Nenthead	3
Garrigill	1
	<hr/>
	11
	<hr/>

Premises registered under Sec.16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, (Making Sausages and Pressed Meats) 2

Premises registered for the sale only of Ice Cream 10

RECORD OF FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED
DURING 1958.

Cooked Ham	2 Tins	Total Weight	20 lbs. 15 ozs.
Ox Tongue	3 Tins	"	18 lbs.
Corned Beef	1 Tin	"	12 ozs.
Pork Luncheon Meat	1 Tin	"	7 ozs.
Tomatoes	4 Tins	"	4 lbs. 7 ozs.
Peas	2 Tins	"	2 lbs. 12 ozs.
Baked Beans	1 Tin	"	1 lb.
Peaches	7 Tins	"	11 lbs. 14 ozs.
Pears	2 Tins	"	2 lbs. 12½ ozs.
Pineapples	2 Tins	"	1 lb. 8 ozs.
Sliced Oranges	6 Tins	"	4 lbs. 2 ozs.

S E C T I O N F

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INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation	
Primary	38
Completed	37
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	
Primary	349
Completed	235
Smallpox Vaccination	
Primary	15
Whooping Cough	
Primary	62
Completed	49

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES FOR THE YEAR 1958.

DISEASE.

Typhoid	-
Paratyphoid	-
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Erysipelas	-
Smallpox	-
Measles	-
Pneumonia	6
Puerper. Pyrexia	-
Dysentery	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-
Chicken Pox	19
Tuberculosis	-
Meningitis	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	-
2. " Other Forms	-	-
3. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	4	-
11. " Lung Bronchus	-	-
12. " Breast	-	-
13. " Uterus	-	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	-	1
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetis	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of Nervous System	3	6
18. Coronary Disease	3	1
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-
20. Other Heart Diseases	-	1
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1
22. Influenza	1	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-
24. Bronchitis	2	-
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
26. Ulcer Stomach and Duodenum	4	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	-	-
32. Other Defined and ill-defined Diseases	2	4
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
34. All Other Accidents	-	1
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and War Operations	-	-
	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 17



